

MAINE STATE MUSIC THEATRE

Robin and Clark's
Beauty
and the
BEAST

Study Guide



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STUDY MATERIALS

THE SOURCE MATERIAL Page 3

The Original Fairytales
Other Retellings

THE ROBIN & CLARK MUSICAL VERSION 6

Synopsis of *Beauty & the Beast* Musical Version
The Characters in *Beauty & the Beast*
The Songs in *Beauty & the Beast*
The Themes
The Creators

LINKS 11

On the Web

ACTIVITIES 12

Discussion Questions after the Performance
Play Mad Libs
Write Your Own Story or Create Your Own Drawing
Send Us Your Comments
Color This Picture



THE SOURCE MATERIAL

THE ORIGINAL FAIRYTALES



Beauty & the Beast was written as a salon tale by Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve in 1740. It was retold in an abridged version targeted at children by Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont in 1756.

Synopsis of Villeneuve's Version

A widower merchant lives in a mansion with his twelve children (six sons and six daughters). All his daughters are very beautiful, but the youngest, is named "little beauty" for she was lovely, kind, well-read, and pure of heart; while the elder sisters, in contrast, are cruel, selfish, vain, and spoiled. The merchant eventually loses all of his wealth in a tempest, which sinks most of his merchant fleet. He and his children are consequently forced to live in a small cottage in a forest and work for a living. While Beauty makes a firm resolution to adjust to rural life with a cheerful disposition, her sisters do not and mistake her determination for stupidity.

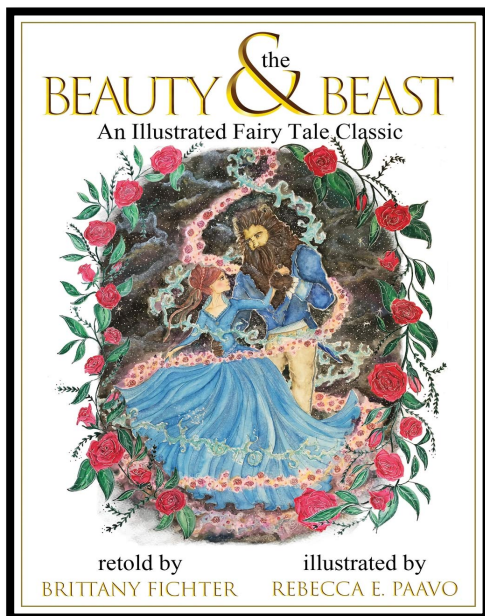
Some years later, the merchant hears that one of his trade ships has arrived back in port, having escaped the destruction of its companions. Before leaving to handle his business, he asks his children if they wish for him to bring any gifts back for them. His oldest daughters ask for expensive gifts. Beauty asks for nothing but for her father to be safe, but when he insists on buying her a present, she is satisfied with the promise of a [rose](#). The merchant, to his dismay, finds that his ship's cargo has been seized to pay his debts, leaving him penniless and unable to buy his children's presents.

During his return, the merchant becomes lost during a storm. Seeking shelter, he comes upon a palace. Seeing that no one is home, the merchant sneaks in and finds tables inside laden with food and drink, which seem to have been left for him by the castle's invisible owner. The merchant accepts this gift and spends the night there. The next morning, the merchant sees a rose garden and recalls that Beauty had desired a rose. He quickly plucks the loveliest rose he can find, and is about to pluck more to create a bouquet, only to end up being confronted by a hideous "Beast" who tries to kill him for stealing his most precious possession. The merchant begs to be set free, revealing that he had only picked the rose as a gift for his youngest daughter. The Beast agrees to let him give the rose to Beauty, but only if the merchant brings one of his daughters to take his place.

The merchant is upset, but accepts this condition. The Beast sends him on his way with wealth, jewels, and fine clothes for his sons and daughters, The merchant, upon arriving home, hands Beauty the rose she requested and informs her it had a terrible price, before relaying what had happened during his absence. Her brothers say they will go to the castle and fight the Beast, while his older daughters refuse to leave and place blame on Beauty, urging her to right her own wrong. The merchant dissuades them, forbidding his children from ever going near the Beast.

Beauty decides to go to the Beast's castle, and the following morning she and her father set out atop a magical horse which the Beast has provided them. The Beast receives her with great ceremony, and her arrival is greeted with fireworks entwining their initials. He gives her lavish clothing and food and carries on lengthy conversations with her. Every night, the Beast asks Beauty to sleep with him, only to be refused each time. After each refusal, Beauty dreams of a handsome prince with whom she begins to fall in love. Despite the apparition of a [fairy](#) urging her not to be deceived by appearances, she does not make the connection between the prince and the Beast and becomes convinced that the Beast is holding this prince captive somewhere in the castle. She searches and discovers many enchanted rooms containing sources of entertainment ranging from libraries, to aviaries, to enchanted windows allowing her to attend the theater. She also comes across many animals including parrots and monkeys which act as servants, but never the unknown prince from her dreams.

For several months, Beauty lives a life of luxury at the Beast's castle. Eventually, she becomes homesick and begs the Beast to allow her to go see her family again. He allows it on the condition that she returns exactly two months later or there will be disastrous consequences for him. Beauty agrees to this and is presented with an enchanted ring which - when turned three times around her finger - allows her to wake up in her family's new home in an instant. Her older sisters are surprised to find her well-fed and dressed in finery, and their old [jealousy](#) quickly flares when their suitors' gazes turn to Beauty, even though she bestows lavish gifts on them and informs the men that she is only there to witness her sisters' weddings. However, Beauty's heart is moved by her father's overprotectiveness, and she reluctantly agrees to stay longer.



When the two months have passed she envisions the Beast dying alone on the castle grounds and hastens to return despite her brothers' resolve to prevent her from doing so. Once she is back in the castle, Beauty's fears are confirmed, and she finds the Beast near death in a cave on the grounds. Seeing this, Beauty is distraught, realizing that she loves him. She fetches water from a nearby spring to resuscitate him. That night, she agrees to marry him, and when she wakes up next to him she finds the Beast transformed into the unknown prince from her dreams. This is followed by the arrival of the fairy who had previously advised her in her dreams, along with a woman she does not recognize in a golden carriage pulled by white stags. The woman turns out to be the prince's mother whose joy quickly falters when she finds out that Beauty is not of noble birth. The fairy chastises the mother and eventually reveals that Beauty is her niece, that her

actual father is the queen's brother from Happy Island, and her mother is the fairy's sister.

The Prince then tells his tale: how his father died when he was young and his mother had to wage war to defend his kingdom. The queen left him in the care of an evil fairy, who tried to seduce him when he became an adult; when he refused, she transformed him into a beast. Only by finding true love, despite his ugliness, could the curse be broken. He and Beauty are [married](#), and they live happily ever after together.



Beaumont's Version

Beaumont greatly pared down the cast of characters and reduced the tale to an almost archetypal simplicity. The story begins in much the same way, although now the merchant has only six children: three sons and three daughters of which Beauty is one. The circumstances leading to her arrival at the Beast's castle unfold in a similar manner, and on this arrival she is informed that she is mistress there, and he will obey her. Beaumont strips away most of Villeneuve's lavish descriptions of Beauty's exploration of the palace and quickly jumps to her return home. Beauty is given leave to remain there

for a week. When she arrives, her sisters feign fondness to entice her to remain another week in hopes that the Beast will devour her in his anger. Again, she returns to find him dying and restores him to life. They then marry and live happily ever after. Beaumont omits the background information given on both the prince and his family and Beauty and hers.

Some Other Popular Retellings of the Tale

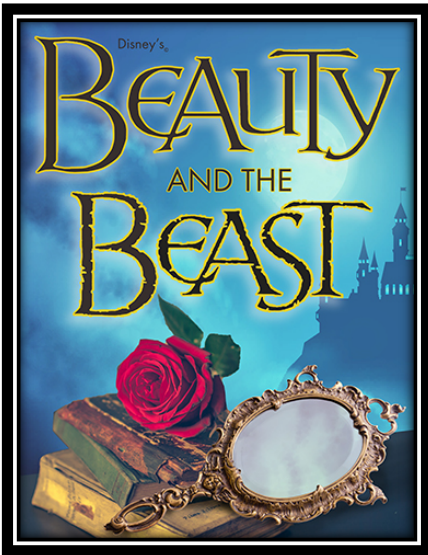
This "tale as old as time" has fascinated artists for centuries. Not only has the story been retold throughout the ages with versions by the Brothers Grimm, to modern retellings like Alex Flinn's *Beastly*, but there have also been countless film, television, and stage adaptations.



Notable among these are Jean Cocteau's 1946 *La Belle et la Bête*, Philip Glass' opera, and a ballet by David Nixon. But perhaps the most beloved are the Disney versions: the 1991 animated film with songs by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, the 2017 live-action adaptation of the 1991 film, and the 1994 full-length stage version using the Menken-Ashman score with additional lyrics by Tim Rice.

The story has been made into television mini-series and specials, as well as many animated versions, though none more famous than Walt Disney's classic.

THE ROBIN & CLARK MUSICAL VERSION



SYNOPSIS

In this Robin and Clark version of Beauty and the Beast, an acting troupe is putting on a Disney-esque production, but things are not going well. It's up to the members of the audience to save the day. It tells the adventures of Rose, the Beauty, and Chadwick, the Beast who once was a prince, as well as Beauty's papa, her silly sisters, and all the other characters in an ageless story about love and beauty that comes from the heart.

The play opens with a scene from the Disney-like version of *Beauty and the Beast* being performed onstage. Suddenly, Cindy, a young girl in the audience, interrupts the show, insisting she did not come to see the same version she has on DVD at home – that she wants something new that is based on the original story. As Cindy gets the cast and crew's attention, she reveals that as president of her

school drama club, she has written her own version. The stage manager looks at Cindy's outline and pronounces it "very good." She decides they should all work to bring her version to life on stage. They begin to recast the roles, re-fashion the scenery and use their and the audience's imaginations to flesh out the concept. Terry, the stage manager, sings the opening number, "Imagination," which soon transforms itself into the opening ensemble.

As this new version of *Beauty & the Beast* begins, Rose (Beauty) dreams about what life would be like outside of the small village in which she and her family live. ("Waiting, Wond'ring, Wanting, Wishing") Her two vain sisters join her, dreaming instead of luxuries. Their father enters with the bad news that his merchant ships have been overtaken by pirates and they are now penniless and fear being evicted from their home. Just then the handsome, but conceited landlord, Studley, arrives to flirt with Rose. He sings a flashy song using his name as an acronym ("Studley") in which he praises his own masculine charms. When he learns of the family's plight, he offers to forego the rent if Rose will marry him. A squabble ensues among the onstage characters and the actors themselves as to how the story should progress, and then the cast returns to Cindy's outline.

Studley allows Rose a respite of forty-eight hours. Rose's father learns one ship has escaped, and he resolves to go find it and recover some money. He promises to bring his girls gifts when he returns. The vain sisters ask for expensive things while Rose wishes only for her father's safety, and, when pressed, asks for a single rose.

The merchant sets off, but loses his way in the fog and comes upon the Beast's castle. He knocks and requests shelter for the night. Maxwell, the butler, admits him but warns that he must remain unseen and be gone by morning if he hopes to avoid the Beast's anger. ("Rules of the House"). Before the merchant does depart, he wanders into a beautiful garden and plucks a rose to bring to his daughter. He is confronted by Chadwick, the Beast, in all his fury and the two sing a fiery duet. ("I Let You into My Home"). When Chadwick learns that the merchant took the flower for his daughter, he gives him permission to bring it to her and then says he must return to become the Beast's prisoner. Maxwell suggests that Rose might be a more agreeable "prisoner" and hints that she can break the spell on Chadwick. The Beast proposes to the merchant: "You stay here forever or send her instead," promising she will live a carefree and comfortable life in the castle.

Accompanied by Maxwell, the merchant returns home with this news, though he insists he will not subject Rose to this fate. However, Rose agrees to go back to the castle, and she and Maxwell sing a duet that reprises “Rules of the House” and “Waiting, Wond’ring.” She is forbidden to enter the rose garden. Chadwick introduces himself to Rose, who is, at first, frightened, but resolves to overcome her antipathy and make the best of her new home. Meanwhile, back in the village, Studley comes to claim Rose as his bride only to find she has gone to live in the Beast’s castle. He vows to capture her and bring her back as his wife.

Rose finds Chadwick in the garden and cannot resist plucking a rose from the vine. Chadwick is enraged, singing, “I gave you everything. Why would you take that?” Rose explains that an angel came to her in a dream (duet with Angel) urging her to find a treasure in the garden. Maxwell takes this as a positive sign, and Chadwick relents, letting Rose keep her flower. “Beautiful things belong with beautiful people,” Chadwick tells her, and suddenly Rose makes the connection between her dream and Chadwick. “He’s the treasure she spoke of,” she sings. “He’s not a thorn but a rose.”

Studley arrives at the castle and announces he has come to take Rose away. Chadwick intervenes, and a duel ensues in which Chadwick is wounded. Rose rushes between them, saying she would rather stay with Chadwick than be Studley’s prisoner in marriage. Confused, Studley leaves, vowing to return. Overcome, Chadwick asks Rose why she defended him. She replies that Studley is an awful person, and beauty is only skin deep. She goes to get a dressing for his wound, and Chadwick sings “When She Takes a Look at Me.”



From that moment on, Chadwick and Rose begin a courtship. His twenty-fifth birthday is approaching, and the terms of the spell dictate that if he has not been redeemed by true love by then, he will die. The actors conjure up an imaginary ballroom for the love scene, which takes place on Chadwick’s birthday. Chadwick tries to tell Rose he loves her, but cannot muster the words. Instead, Rose tells him she misses her family. Chadwick decides to release her. Rose accepts, promising to return to visit. Maxwell is distraught because now Chadwick will die at midnight tomorrow. He asks Chadwick what he was thinking? Chadwick replies, “I finally know what it is to live.”

Rose returns home, but within moments, Maxwell, who has been following her, enters the cottage. As Studley also arrives to claim Rose, Maxwell reveals to her the spell. Rose spurns Studley, telling him the Beast is kind, sincere, and gentle. She realizes she is in love with Chadwick, and she agrees to hurry back to the castle, accompanied by Maxwell and her family, to bestow on the Beast the saving kiss before midnight. Just before midnight, they search for Chadwick in the moonlit rose garden. As the clock chimes, Chadwick and Rose confess their love just before he sinks to the floor on the stroke of twelve. Rose sings her lament, “It’s Too Late to Say I Love You.” Cindy steps in to play the part of the Angel, who brings Chadwick back to life, now transformed into a handsome prince. The cast proclaims that “Beauty and the Beast will be immortal.”

THE CHARACTERS

The *Beauty & the Beast* characters are played by the actors and crew from the Disney-esque production, thus most roles double.

Cindy/Angel – a middle school girl who has written her own version of *Beauty & the Beast* and who inspires this new production. She gets to play the role of the good Angel in the play's finale.

Rose/Terry – The youngest and most beautiful of the merchant's daughters – kind, gentle, able to see beneath the surface. She is played by the stage manager, Terry.

Paris/Potts – Rose's older sister, vain and selfish, played by the "Disney" character Potts.

Nikki/Wardrobe – Rose's other older sister, who is also vain and foolish, played by the "Disney" character of the Wardrobe.

Papa/Cogsworth – The sisters' father, a kindly merchant fallen on hard times, played by the "Disney" character of Cogsworth.

Studley/Gaston – A rich, handsome, conceited young man, who is the merchant's landlord and who is determined to marry Rose, played by the "Disney" character of Gaston.

Maxwell/Lumiere—The Beast's butler, played by the "Disney" character of Lumiere. He truly cares for his master and helps bring about his salvation through Rose's love.



THE SONGS

Imagination

Terry, Cindy

<i>Imagination (Reprise)</i>	Cindy, Lumiere, Potts, Cogsworth, Wardrobe
<i>Waiting, Wond'ring, Wanting, Wishing</i>	Rose
<i>Studley</i>	Studley (with Nikki & Paris)
<i>Rules of the House</i>	Maxwell, Papa
<i>I Let You In My Home</i>	Chadwick, Papa (with Maxwell)
<i>You Took That Rose</i>	Chadwick
<i>Rules of the House/ Waiting, Wond'ring, (Reprise)</i>	Maxwell, Rose
<i>Angel Song</i>	Angel, Rose
<i>When She Looks at Me</i>	Chadwick
<i>Imagination (Reprise)</i>	Cindy
<i>It's Too Late To Say I Love You</i>	Rose
<i>Finale</i>	Maxwell, Papa, Nikki, Paris, Cindy

THE THEMES



Robin & Clark's musical version functions as a play within a play, thereby breaking the fourth wall by enlisting the audience's comments and interaction. The power of imagination is celebrated throughout – literally in the way the audience and players tell the story with minimal scenery and props, relying on the words, songs, and emotions. The writers also stress the themes of inner beauty and the redemptive power of love.

THE CREATORS



Marc Robin and Curt Dale Clark are the creators of this musical version of *Beauty & the Beast*. Together, they have written the book (or story and dialogue), the music, and the lyrics of the songs for a total of fifteen musicals. Marc Robin is also a well-known theatre director, choreographer, actor, dancer, and singer and now heads up the Fulton Theatre in Lancaster, PA. Curt Dale Clark is an actor, singer, dancer, and director, and with his managing partner, Stephanie Dupal, he is Artistic Director of Maine State Music Theatre in Brunswick. Marc and Curt believe that it is very important to introduce young audiences like you to live theatre because these shows open a whole world of imagination and creativity. They hope you will enjoy this production of *Beauty & the Beast* and come to Maine State Music Theatre in the summer to see another Theatre for Young Audiences performance with all the costumes, lights, and beautiful sets, the dancing and the music, performed by fantastic actors and musicians.

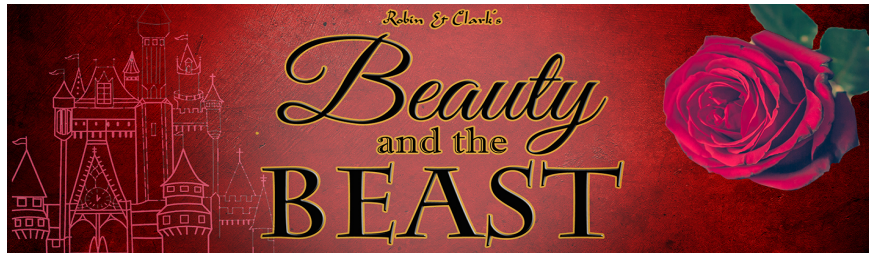
OTHER MUSICALS BY ROBIN & CLARK

FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

Aladdin
Alice in Wonderland
A Christmas Carol
Cinderella
Jack and the Beanstalk
The Little Mermaid
The Nutcracker
Peter Pan
Pinocchio
The Princess and the Pea
Rapunzel
Sleeping Beauty
Snow White
'Twas the Night Before Christmas

FULL-LENGTH MUSICALS

Treasure Island: A Musical Adventure
Sarah (in the works)



LINKS

If you want to learn more about *Beauty & the Beast* in its original version and other theatrical forms, here is a list of reading and internet resources you can check out:

ON THE WEB

About the Original French Fairytales

<https://www.pookpress.co.uk/beamont-beauty-beast/> The text of Beaumont's version of the story

<https://www.fairytales.biz/brothers-grimm/beauty-and-the-beast.html> The Brothers Grimm version of the story

About Robin & Clark Musicals

www.robinandclarkmusicals.com A complete list of all their works with summaries, photographs, song lists, audio, and video clips, and comments from the press

<https://robinandclarkmusicals.com/beauty-and-the-beast/> Page devoted to Robin & Clark's *Beauty & the Beast* with press clips and an audio clip of "Studley," sung by Curt Dale Clark

Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfB1CACjKRQ> You Tube version of story read aloud with illustrations

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k03Oi_04BZE Short video clips from MSMT's production of Disney's *Beauty & the Beast*

ACTIVITIES

TELL THE PERFORMERS WHAT YOU THINK

THE SHOW

1. If you have seen the Disney film or stage version, how is this musical different?
2. Who is your favorite character and why?
3. What is your favorite scene or song?

THE THEMES

4. What is the play saying about the meaning of true beauty?
5. What lesson do the sisters come to learn by the end of the show?
6. What are Rose's finest traits besides her beauty?
7. The character of Studley pokes fun at what human qualities?
8. Why do you think Cindy wants to hear a different version of *Beauty and the Beast* than the one she has on DVD?
9. Why is the heroine named Rose, and what does the actual flower symbolize throughout the story?
10. At the finale, the ensemble says "Beauty and the Beast will live forevermore." What will make them immortal?



LET'S PLAY MAD LIBS

The leader asks the group to call out specific kinds of words – **nouns** (names of people, places, things), **adjectives** (descriptive words), **verbs** (action words), **adverbs** (words that tell us how, when or why), **exclamation** (short emotional expression). The leader fills in the blanks in the story with these new words and then reads it back to the group. The results are usually very funny! Enjoy the game!

FROM A BEDTIME STORY VERSION OF BEAUTY & THE BEAST

When she got back to her room, she looked in the magic _____ **(noun)** and asked to see her father. And there he was, in _____ **(noun)** and looking so _____ **(adjective)** he could die!

In fear, Beauty turned the ring on her _____ **(noun)** three times. "Please, Magic Mirror," she said. "Take me _____ **(adverb)** right now!"

And she was back! Ah, such joy when her father looked up and saw _____ **(noun/name)**! For much of why he was ill was in knowing that Beauty was stuck in the palace, all because of him. Beauty _____ **(verb)** by her father's bed for hours. She told him that she had all the books she could read, music to play, and fine _____ **(noun)** to wear. "The Beast is not so _____ **(adjective)**," she said, "once you get to know him. He's good to talk to. He's my _____ **(noun)**."

Beauty looked around. "Where are my sisters?" "They are both _____ **(adjective)**," said the father. "Did they marry good men?" said she. "They had a lot of money," said the father. "But I do not know if your sisters are _____ **(adjective)**." For the eldest sister had married a handsome man so vain that he gave no thought to anything else, including his wife. And the middle sister had married a man with a sharp wit but who used it to _____ **(verb)** everyone around him, and most of all his wife.

When the sisters came to the house and saw Beauty, dressed so well and talking about how kind and good the Beast was to her, they burned with _____ **(noun)**. Beauty told them she must stay no more than one week. And the sisters came up with a plan. They petted Beauty and said such nice things they had never said before. When she told them she must go soon, they _____ **(verb)**. They said she must not leave. There was still so much left they wanted to do with her! And why do just a few days matter, after all? So Beauty _____ **(verb)**.

One night she had a dream about the Beast. In her dream, the Beast lay _____ **(adjective)** and dying. When Beauty woke up, she asked the magic mirror to show her the Beast. There he was in the mirror, lying in the rose garden, looking so sick he would die. At once, she turned the magic ring three times. "Take me back to the Beast!" she said. In a moment she was sitting next to the _____ **(adjective)** Beast, who could only gasp for air. His eyes _____ **(verb)**. "No!" cried Beauty. "Do not leave me!" Just then, she knew in her heart what was _____ **(adjective)**. "I love you!" she cried out. "Please come back! If you only come back, I will be your _____ **(noun)**."

LET'S DRAW AND WRITE

1. The story of *Beauty & the Beast* is a kind of fable, that is, a story which teaches a lesson. **Write your own fable** in which a character or characters have an adventure from which they learn.
2. **Draw two pictures of the Beast**, as you imagine him: first as the ugly creature and then as the handsome prince.
3. **Color the drawing from Beauty & the Beast**, which you will find on the last page of this booklet. You can make it as fantastical as you like.



We want to see what you create, so send us your stories and artwork. We will post some pictures and writing on MSMT's Facebook page.

Here's how to send:

- Mail them to **DJ Fourquet, Assistant Director of Development, Maine State Music Theatre, 22 Elm St., Brunswick, ME 04011** or
- Email your writing or a picture of your drawing to DJ Fourquet at dj@msmt.org

SEND US YOUR COMMENTS

Let us know what you thought of this program by filling out the survey below and returning it to **DJ Fourquet at Maine State Music Theatre, 22 Elm St., Brunswick, ME 04011** or by replying in an email to DJ at dj@msmt.org. We hope to continue to bring you similar programs, so your thoughts and comments are very important to us! Thanks for taking the time!

FOR CHILDREN

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being highest), how entertaining did you find *BEAUTY & THE BEAST*?
2. What did you like best about the presentation?
3. Who was your favorite character?
4. What was your favorite song?
5. What is the most important lesson you took away from the story and this program?
6. Did the program make you want to be in a play yourself?

FOR ADULTS

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being highest), how entertaining and educational did you find *BEAUTY & THE BEAST*?
2. What did you like best about the presentation?
3. What is the most important lesson your child took away from this musical?
4. Did the program make you want to bring your child(ren) the Young Audiences productions this summer?
5. What other children's stories and musicals would you like to explore in future programs?
6. How useful were the printed materials for your child?
7. Please offer us any other suggestions or thoughts you may have.

NAME:

AGE: (optional)

CONTACT INFORMATION (optional)

